

Jools Townsend
Chief executive

**Tackling Loneliness with
Transport webinar:
overview of our project**



Our initial thinking

- A chance to bid in to DfT funding
- Community rail already delivering some exemplary projects, and recognised in Government's Tackling Loneliness strategy
- Opportunity to develop our evidence base
- And strengthen community rail's work with young people



Community Rail Lancashire engaging young people and celebrating diversity at Lancashire & Manchester stations

Why engage young people?

- More likely to report loneliness
- Often at risk of mental health conditions
- Especially exposed to loneliness & isolation following the pandemic
- Loneliness risk linked to belonging, ability to socialise, access to opportunity



+ Existing evidence suggested participatory approaches in community rail can be powerful in countering loneliness risk (and can be spread more widely) – see Dr Miriam Ricci's paper



Community rail can:

- Unlock a crucial enabler
- Build public transport confidence, often grossly lacking
- Create a sense of pride, ownership & belonging to local/wider areas
- Increase access to opportunity
- Increase access to leisure & nature
- Build social connections and cohesion
- Engage young people on their terms, and draw on their ideas & creativity



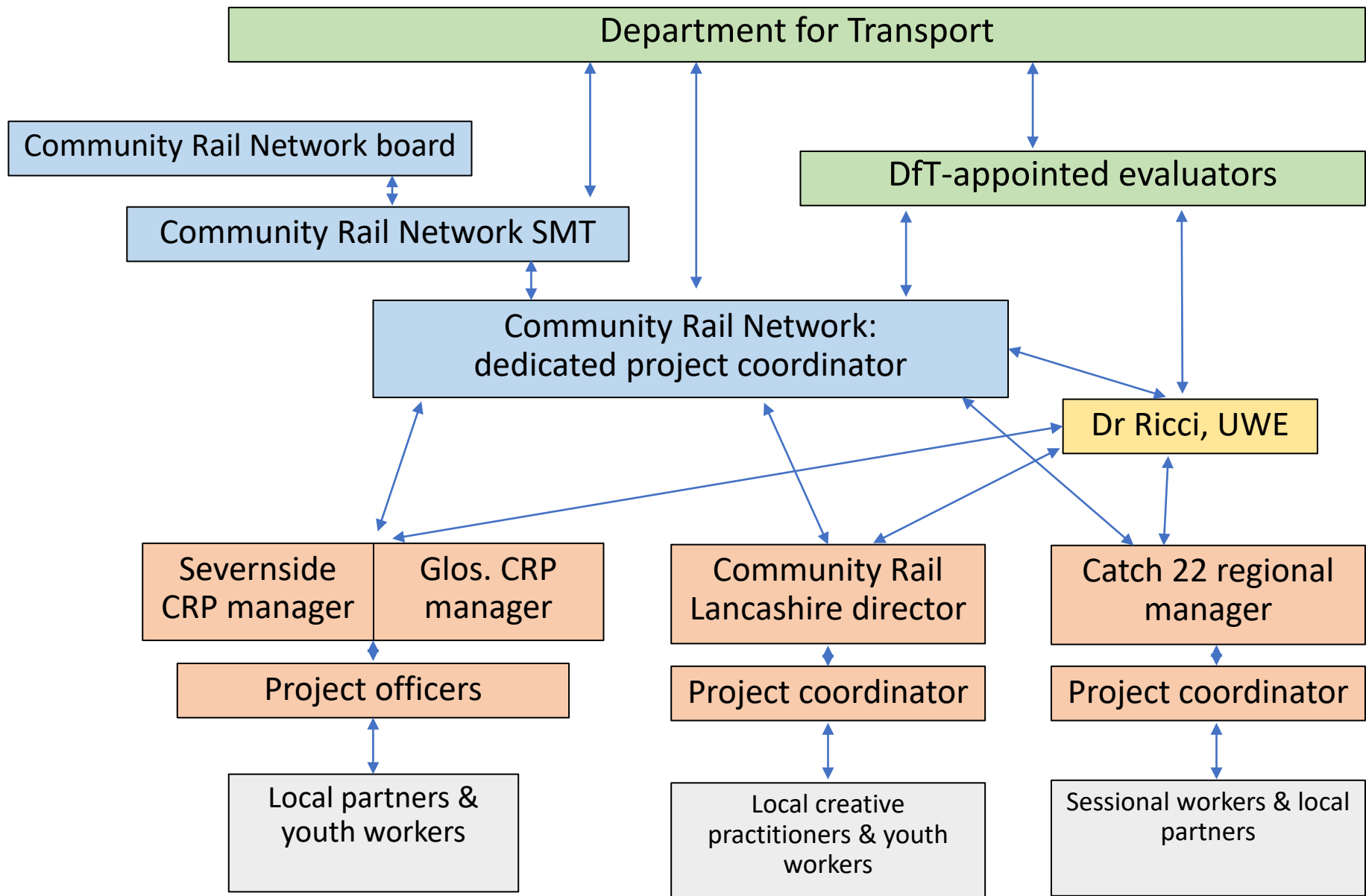
Gloucestershire CRP's Getaway project

Partners brought together



Plus numerous local community partners in each of the three areas





Building a lasting legacy



- Three evidence-led, testable pilots
- Participatory evaluation
- Sharing our learnings and guidance
- Through this webinar & ongoing
- Integrating into our support
- Looking for funding opportunities
- 401 engaged, but scope for 10,000s

...And please share your ideas today!



6VT youth CRP (and me) boarding the Hydroflex at COP26, Glasgow

